

Remarks

The application was reviewed in light of the final Office Action mailed December 30, 2004. By the foregoing amendments, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended and claims 1, 4, 7 and 10-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, and 13-16 are pending in the application. No new matter is introduced by the amendments.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) because of failure to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, in particular, in claim 7. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice.

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The claims have been carefully reviewed in light of this rejection and amended by the foregoing amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims as amended are now in the form satisfying the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 9 and 13-14 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as discussed above, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the foregoing amendments, claims 9 and 13-14 are amended as suggested by the Examiner and are now in the form satisfying this requirement under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 9 and 13-14 as amended are now in condition for allowance.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8 are amended to change the dependency respectively to independent claim 9 which is now in condition for allowance as discussed above. Accordingly, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8 as amended are now in condition for allowance. By the foregoing amendments, claims 15-16 are amended to

change the dependency respectively to independent claim 13 which is now in condition for allowance as discussed above. Accordingly, claims 15-16 as amended are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections in the Office Action of claims 2-3, 5-6, 8 and 15-16 under either 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims currently pending in the application (i.e., claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, and 13-16) are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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